

**LEPTOPOMA MOUHOTI, var.**

*Testa conica, tenuis, semipellucida, umbilicata, alba, interdum infra peripheriam fusco tincta, epidermide tenui lutescente induta; spira conica, mediocriter elevata; anfractus 5, convexi, liris spiralibus filiformibus (in anfr. penultimo circiter 6) instructi, striisque inter liras sculpti, incrementi lineis obliquis ornati; ultimus liris 12 (mediana ad peripheriam cæteris paulo majore) succinctus; apertura fere circularis, longit. totius  $\frac{1}{2}$  paulo superans; peristoma anguste expansum, marginibus callo tenuijunctis.*

*Long.*  $10\frac{1}{3}$  millim., *diam. maj.*  $10\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* Found on mossy trunks of trees in the upper part of the island (*J. J. Lister*).

In sculpture the specimens from Christmas Island agree exactly with *L. mouhoti*, Pfeiffer, from Camboja. They differ in being broader and in having the spire a trifle less elevated. The peristome also is slightly narrower. Until I have an opportunity of examining a larger series of the two forms, I think it best not to separate them specifically.

## 8. On the Coleoptera of Christmas Island.

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The Coleoptera in Mr. Lister's collection consist of about 70 specimens belonging to 20 different species, and to almost as many distinct genera. The genera mostly, and in some cases also the species, are of wide distribution. One genus is new; this, while closely allied to an Indo-Malayan genus, is related also to a distinct Australian genus.

In the following list I have indicated the genera and, as far as possible, the species, but the latter, I have found it impossible in many cases to determine without the expenditure of considerable time. Those which I believe to be new are described below.

**MORIO ORIENTALIS**, Dejean.

**HOLOLEPTA**, sp.

**PÆDERUS**, sp.

**PARÆGUS LISTERI**, n. g. et n. sp.

**LEPTAULAX**, sp.

**CHRYSOEDEMA SIMPLEX**, C. Waterh.

**STIGMATIUM**, sp.

**MNÉPHILUS**, sp.

**HOPATRUM**, sp.

**SESSINIA**, sp.

SESSINIA, sp.

CERESIVM NIGRUM, n. sp.

MONOHAMMUS NATIVITATIS, n. sp.

PRAONETHA PERPLEXA, n. sp.

MICRACANTHA, sp.

EPILACHNA, sp.

A small Curculionid, and three small Elateridæ, belonging to three distinct species.

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PARÆGUS, n. g.

Allied to *Ægus*, from which it differs by the form of the mandibles. These, in the male, are sharply bent inwards and are at the same time directed forwards and upwards, so that their apices, when they meet in the middle line, are on a level with the vertex of the head. In the fully developed male each mandible is armed with a tubercular tooth on its upper (or, in this case, posterior) internal border at a short distance from the apex. The form of its mandibles brings this genus into relation with the Australian genus *Lissotes*; its remaining characters are those of *Ægus*.

PARÆGUS LISTERI, n. sp.

♂. *Piceo-brunneus, nitidus, mandibulis prope apicem unidentatis; capite supra in medio minute et sparse punctulato, ad latera pone oculos grosse punctato; prothorace supra sparse punctulato, lateribus parallelis; elytris 12-striatis cum intervallis punctulatis.*

Long. corporis 17 millim.; long. mandibuli 4 millim.

The mandibles are provided each with a process on its inner lower side at the base; these processes meet in the middle line when the mandibles are closed, and their posterior border is then concealed beneath the clypeus. The tubercular tooth which each mandible bears near its apex is distinct only in the fully developed males. The head above is minutely and sparsely punctured in the middle, more grossly at the sides, especially behind the eyes. The latter are completely divided by the ocular canthus. The prothorax is sparsely punctured above. The elytra have each six striæ, the outermost of which are feebly marked and consist of rows of closely approximated punctures; the intervals between the striæ as well as the sides of the elytra are punctured. The anterior tibiæ are armed along their outer border with four or five spines; the intermediate and posterior tibiæ have each a single spine below the middle. Six male specimens. The measurements given above are those of the largest.

In the collection of H.M.S. 'Flying-Fish,' from Christmas Island, which was presented to the British Museum, there occurs a single female, which was placed in the genus *Ægus*; it is probably the female of the present species. The mandibles have each a single

tooth at about the middle of their length; the head is strongly punctured above, excepting a smooth space posteriorly, the prothorax is rather strongly but somewhat sparsely punctured above, and its sides are somewhat rounded; the elytra have each about 5 or 6 striæ, but not more than 4 on each are apparent to the naked eye, and even these are not very distinct; the whole surface of the elytra is closely enough punctured.

LEPTAULAX, sp.

This is probably a local variety of *L. timoriensis*, Perch. It differs from that species only, so far as I can find, in the almost entire absence of punctures from the sides of the pronotum. The punctures are restricted to two or three close to the anterior margin, and to a single or double row of small punctures along the lateral margin. The single shallow, rounded depression on each side towards the posterior angle bears in some specimens two or three punctures, in others it is quite plain. The labrum and the surface of the head present the same characters as in *L. timoriensis*; the middle tooth on the margin of the clypeus is a little less distinct, otherwise the margin of the clypeus is similarly toothed.

CERESIVM NIGRUM, n. sp.

*Nigrum, subnitidum, antennis, palpis pedibusque ferrugineo-testaceis; prothorace in medio disci et lateribus sparse punctatis, his fulvo-maculatis; scutello fulvo; elytris punctatis, punctis evanescentibus versus medium.*

Long. 11–16 millim.

Black and shiny, with scattered pale grey hairs on the middle of the thorax above and on the elytra. The underside of the body and the legs with a faint greyish pubescence not thick enough to conceal the colour of the derm beneath. The fulvous spots form an irregular vitta on each side of the prothorax, similar in pattern to that on *C. simplex*, Gyllh. A feeble tubercle is to be found on each side close to the anterior margin of the thorax. The punctures on the basal half of the elytra are somewhat seriatly arranged and are not very close. The last character essentially distinguishes the species from *simplex*, with which otherwise it seems to be closely allied. The colour of the derm is also very distinct.

MONOHAMMUS NATIVITATIS, n. sp.

*M. mixto, Hope, similis, sed differt apicibus elytrorum sinuato-truncatis nec spinosis.*

Long. 21 millim.

The single male example of this species closely resembles small males of *M. mixtus*; but differs in the absence of spines or teeth from the apices of the elytra, in the presence of some scattered punctures on the middle basal part of the front of the head, and in the proportionately somewhat slenderer third, fourth, and fifth antennal joints. As in *M. mixtus*, the cicatrice of the scape has an almost complete bordering rim, the front of the head is rather narrow,

the prothorax is somewhat uneven and sparsely punctured on the disk, and the elytra are punctate and have a brownish-grey pubescence dotted with numerous glabrous spots.

*PRAONETHA PERPLEXA*, n. sp.

*Pube brunneo-grisea tecta; prothorace punctato, elytris postice gradatim declivibus, dense punctatis, nec cristatis, singulo tenuiter bicarinato, apicibus subrotundatis.*

Long. 9–14 millim.

Head covered with a brownish or fulvous-grey pubescence, which is distinctly fulvous on the cheeks and in spots on the front, especially near the base. The pubescence almost conceals the punctures, which are somewhat sparse on the front, cheeks, and vertex. Prothorax with a close brownish-grey pubescence, with its sides apparently feebly rugose, the punctures on the disk scarcely visible beneath the pubescence.

The elytra are distinctly and rather strongly punctured, especially towards the sides, and have a mixed pubescence of brownish grey, fulvous grey, and ashy grey on the anterior two thirds, and a fulvous-grey pubescence on the apical declivous portion. There is also a small distinctly fulvous spot on each side of the rather broad scutellum, the latter is brownish pubescent. The two ridges on each elytron begin at about a third of the length from the base, and end on the posterior declivous part at some distance from the apex, the outer ridge extending back a little farther than the inner. Just in front of the anterior termination of the inner ridge there is on the disk of each elytron a broad and somewhat rounded shallow depression, and in front of this again a broad and feebly raised hump, but no crest.

The underside of the body is covered with a brownish or fulvous-grey pubescence, and each of the first four abdominal segments has a distinctly tawny fringe on the posterior margin. The legs have a somewhat mottled appearance, greyish sprinkled with dark brown.

Antennæ a little shorter than the body, with the basal joint dark brown and sparsely fulvous pubescent, the remaining joints fulvous grey, with their tips somewhat fuscous; the fourth joint is about as long as the second and third together, the fifth about half as long as the fourth, the following joints gradually decreasing in length.

The present species does not agree with any of the descriptions of the numerous species of the genus; but as many of these descriptions are short and inadequate it is impossible to determine it with certainty.

*MICRACANTHA*, sp. ?

A single slightly rubbed specimen, belonging to a species apparently closely allied to, if not identical with, *M. abdominalis*, White. The latter is a widely distributed species; it ranges from N. Australia (Port Essington) to Sumatra, and one specimen in the British Museum Collection (the *Coptops modica* of Dejean's Catalogue) is from the Philippine Islands.